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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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BALLOON BUST

Request: Let's keep I-Day celebrations green this year

PAGE 2

JUST JAMMIN'

Experts suggest ways to detangle B'luru's knotty traffic

PAGE 8

Even as K-RIDE struggles to keep up with suburban rail deadlines, at a crunch time, it is also having to deal with staff shortage

ALL HANDS ON DECK? 40 PAIRS MISSING

Latest aim: To wrap up all 4 corridors by end of this calendar year

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE) is grappling with a shortage of staff while its suburban rail project is behind schedule. While K-RIDE has 153 sanctioned posts, over 40 are lying vacant. The majority of these vacancies are in the civil department (14), followed by urban planning, human resource, and electrical departments.

According to the higher officials of K-RIDE, the vacant posts will be filled on or before November 2023.

"K-RIDE is making efforts to fill up the vacancies through various modes of deputation from railways, state, and contractual engagements. It will be ensured that all vacant posts of all the domains are filled in this calendar year. K-RIDE has already dispatched eight offer letters to selected candidates. These employees are expected to report to duty on or before November 2023," said RK Singh, Director (projects and planning), K-RIDE.

All hands count

Experts say, since the suburban rail project is approaching the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Work in progress on the suburban rail project near Nagawara

"To some extent, K-RIDE's slow progress so far can be attributed to its failure to leverage hundreds of kilometres of railway track available in and around Bengaluru. The citizens never asked for a parallel system

— Srinivas Alavilli, public transport activist

Streets that bind

IISc study finds ability to spend quality time with loved ones and have fun were major pull factors on pedestrianised streets

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A study has revealed what factors must be taken into consideration while designing pedestrianised streets. Researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) studied Church Street, which was the city's first pedestrianised street, to understand the correlation between motivation and satisfaction factors that are key to the success of such streets. They also observed that commuters used more metro trains during timings coinciding with streets being pedestrianised.

Researchers observed that various push and pull factors are key to its use and repetitive use. And key among the pull factors, it was found was the ability to spend quality time with friends, family.

The study was motivated by the fact that though pedestrianised streets are promoted as a long-term solution for urban problems, its adoption into the city landscape has been slow. The study aimed to develop a replicative model to be implemented at other pedestrianised streets.

The findings for the study were published in a paper titled 'Measuring Motivation and Satisfaction Level of Visitors of a Pedestrianized Urban Street

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Bengaluru Utsav

Watch out for the 10–day gala Arts and Crafts convention at Chitrakala Parishath. The gala offers pleasing knitting, awe-inspiring carvings, and eye-catching ornaments. Entry is free.
Where- Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
When - August 4 – 13, 11 am – 7 pm

02 Career pathway fair

Join the UK Career Pathway Fair for medical professionals and aspiring doctors. Explore diverse medical careers in the UK through sessions by renowned experts. Get guidance from distinguished UK healthcare professionals and shape your international career.
Where: Royal Orchid, Yalahanka
When: August 5, 10 am – 6 pm

03 Economic insights

Don't miss the Azim Premji University public lecture featuring India's Chief Economic Adviser, Anantha Nageswaran. Hear about sustainable, balanced, and equitable economic growth and innovative solutions to tackle fresh challenges.
Where- Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
When - August 5, 4.30 pm – 6 pm

Nationwide call to ditch balloons for festivities

Petition seeks greener celebrations this Independence Day

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As Independence Day approaches, the entire country gears up for celebrations. However, amid the festive spirit, numerous environment-conscious individuals and groups across the nation have come forward starting a petition to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to curtail the widespread use of balloons in festivities, citing the detrimental impact of such practices on the environment.

The organisation 'Beautiful Bharat' started the petition along with 40 various other groups and citizens supporting them like the Amulya Boondh Foundation, Bangalore Apartment Federation, Indian Ploggers Army, Hasiru Dala, HSR Citizens Forum, Gift Green India, Saahas Zero Waste and others.

One of the main concerns highlighted by the organisation is the use of non-biodegradable balloons, which contribute to pollution when they descend after release. The harmful chemicals from these balloons contaminate the soil and water bodies, disrupting the delicate ecosystem and posing health risks to humans through the food chain. Wildlife and marine ecosystems also suffer, as many animals mistake balloon fragments for food, leading to ingestion and entanglement, often resulting in fatalities.

Environment groups petitioned against the use of balloons

"The tri-coloured balloons go floating when they burst and come back to land or sea, and they look like food. This can cause harm to the creatures that swallow them – Odette Katrak, Beautiful Bharat

Odette Katrak from Beautiful Bharat said, "Balloons cause harm as it results in land pollution and a huge factor is that balloons cause risk of choking, wherein if children ingest the balloon they can choke to death. There are many incidents reported in the past where infants have consumed balloons and it has resulted in choking. While we are honouring Mother India, should we be disrespecting mother nature? The tricolours go floating when they burst and come back to the land or sea, and they look like food. This can cause immediate harm to the creatures that swallow them. At a time when the planet is stressed like never before, every little action of ours counts. We will present the petition on August 11, which will give the government enough time to announce and completely stop the usage of balloons."

The petition also points out the aftermath of celebrations, with balloon remains littering the environment and causing challenges for municipalities. Additionally, helium wastage is a concern due to the use of balloons.

To address these issues, the organisations advocate for nationwide public awareness campaigns, educating citizens about the harmful effects of balloons on the environment, wildlife, and human health. They urge the implementation of a policy framework and regulatory measures to ban the manufacture, sale, or use of balloons. The emphasis is on encouraging sustainable alternatives, such as cloth, paper, or flower decorations that can be reused, recycled, or composted. Moreover, they stress the importance of collaborating with educational institutions to incorporate environmental education and sustainability into the curriculum, fostering a culture of responsible celebrations among students.

Bengaluru Queer Film Festival to redefine horror

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The 13th edition of the Bangalore Queer Film Festival commenced at Alliance Française on Friday. This cultural extravaganza, a city tradition since 2010, attracts movie enthusiasts eager to delve into queer cinema. The festival is set to showcase a diverse range of horror films, including Queer horror, over its three-day run.

Joshua Muyiwa, one of the festival organisers, talking to Bangalore Mirror said, "The film festival is evolving the way we show films, and what is queer keeps changing every year. We are responding to the times, and it has changed in terms of accessibility and focus. Earlier, queer films mostly focused on the West, and now we feature a lot of Indian, Bangalore, and South Asian films." This year's festival lineup has a lot of Indian and South Asian films.

Discussing the unique films featured this year, Joshua mentioned works from Tibet, Myanmar, and Indonesia. "There are queer and Muslim, queer and being a refugee film. There's a film called 'Two Souls' where the director and crew members are refugees, as Myanmar has been arresting artists. So they are making the film in Thailand. For the first time, there's a film from Tibet. There are also films from the North East. The idea is to represent as many of the countries that are not represented and to talk about sexuality in small and

13th Queer Film Festival wil be held at Alliance Francaise

interesting ways. That's the interesting part."

The inclusion of horror films in the festival sparked an interesting conversation. Joshua added, "Horror is such a queer and campy genre. The only people who are scared are those who are different. Films like these allow us to view fear as funny or find other ways of expressing it. The question of what is queer is constantly evolving. For us, these films are part of the conversation; they represent various ideas for showcasing them. These horror films become funny as they satirize mob mentality or certain aesthetics."

A participant at the festival said, "The collection of films is interesting. They have a diverse collection of movies and short films. Film festivals are not just for movie screenings; they also provide an opportunity for people to socialize. 5-6 years ago, most of these movies were not available anywhere, but now they are accessible online. Yet, people still come because it's a socializing event. It has become a wholesome experience."

The festival will continue its screenings at Max Mueller Bhavan in Indiranagar on Saturday and Sunday.

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Road to connect B'luru, Mysuru, Kushalnagar

Realty rides high on highway project work that is set to kick off in September

The Bengaluru-Mysuru-Kushalnagar highway project work is set to begin in September this year. A recent meeting held at Mysuru discussed the project's timeline, targeting completion by December 2024. Stakeholders from various departments attended the meeting to ensure prompt permissions are accorded.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs 4,130 crore, and it was previously inaugurated by PM Modi during the foundation stone-laying ceremony. Currently, the project is undertaking tasks like land acquisition and shifting of utilities, including KPTCL power grid lines, which are expected to be completed soon. The land acquisition process is likely to conclude by the end of August.

With Mysuru becoming a 10-lane road (six-lane expressway with two-lane service roads on either side), the focus has shifted to the Srirangapatna-Kodagu highway extension. This extension will allow the Mysuru highway to extend till Kodagu district, which realtors believe will boost infrastructure development on Mysuru road.

Realtors say that this project will help the development of properties in and around Mysuru road. Suresh S, a realtor, said that earlier, reaching Mysuru was a challenge. However, now it is a breeze as one can travel between the two cities in less than two hours. As a result, many are buying plots in and around Mysuru road so that they can easily travel between the two cities by avoiding the city traffic. "Now, it is definitely good news that the highway till Kodagu will be expanded, and this would mean a reduction in travel time till Madikeri," he said.

The new project will begin from Srirangapatna, combining Greenfield and Brownfield upgradation till Kushalnagar.

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As the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway is already open to traffic, the focus now shifts to the Bengaluru-Kodagu highway, which will have a new Greenfield alignment to bypass Mysuru and nearby villages and towns. Modi formally laid the foundation stone for this 92-km project, costing Rs 4,130 crore. The completed project is expected to reduce the travel time between Bengaluru and Kushalnagar from the current five hours to 2.5 hours.

NHAI officials explained that the project will take off from Guddehosur near Srirangapatna (from Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway), and a new Greenfield alignment of 51.43 km (along with a combined bypass of Hunsur) will be constructed to join the existing alignment of Mysuru-Kushalnagar road at Thammadahalli. NHAI has planned a 19.95 km bypass for Periyapatna, a 12.2 km bypass for Kushalnagar, and a 3.4 km bypass for Suntikoppa.

The new road will be a significant relief for travelers heading to Kodagu. NHAI officials claim that since the new alignment passes through agricultural or dry land, the level of social and environmental impact is lesser.

Travellers rejoice

This road will definitely be a boon for travelers to Kodagu. "Currently, we are forced to travel to Madikeri via Mysuru Outer Ring Road. Though the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway has reduced the travel time, vehicles are getting stuck near Columbia Asia signal, where one needs to take a right turn on ORR towards Kodagu. Then, we have to pass through many villages to reach the highway. The other option is to take a shortcut via KRS road. However, this road is in a pathetic condition and not fit for traveling.

Plus, this road is quite dangerous to drive at night times. The new road will not only cut short the travel time but also provides a shortcut," said Anand, a regular traveller.

–Prakash VL

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Steps to declutter your home

Decluttering your home can be an overwhelming task, but with a systematic approach and the right mindset, it can be a rewarding experience. Here are practical tips to guide you through the process:

Set Clear Goals: Before you start decluttering, identify specific goals you want to achieve. Whether it's decluttering your entire home or focusing on one room at a time, having clear objectives will keep you motivated and focused.

Start Small: Tackling your entire home all at once can be daunting. Begin with a small area like a drawer or a single shelf and gradually work your way to larger spaces. This step-by-step approach makes the process more manageable.

Sort Items Into Categories: Create categories for your belongings, such as "Keep," "Donate," "Sell," and "Dispose." As you go through your possessions, place each item into the appropriate category. Be honest with yourself about what you truly need and cherish.

Use The KonMari Method: Inspired by Marie Kondo, the KonMari method involves decluttering by category, not location. Sort items by categories like clothes, books, papers, miscellaneous, and sentimental items. Hold each item in your hands and ask yourself if it sparks joy. If it doesn't, let it go with gratitude.

One In, One Out Rule: Adopt the "one in, one out" rule for certain items, especially things like clothes, books, and toys. Whenever you bring in a new item, commit to getting rid of one to maintain a clutter-free balance.

Set Time Limits: Avoid getting bogged down in sentimental items or spending too much time on a single category. Set time limits for each decluttering session to stay on track.

Involve Family Members: If you share your living space with family members, involve them in the decluttering process. Encourage open communication about the importance of decluttering and get everyone's input on what to keep and what to let go of.

Rent A Storage Unit (Temporarily): If you find it difficult to part with certain items due to sentimental value, consider renting a storage unit temporarily. This can help you create some physical distance from those belongings and reevaluate their importance over time.

– Rishika Butwani, Times Property

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Too many loopholes in HRBR road story

Residents allege irregularities, safety concerns as contractor digs over 139 holes

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In June this year, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) granted permissions for laying optical fiber cables (OFC) to private telecom providers in the Maruti Nagar division at HRBR layout. The permissions allowed for digging only 20 holes and creating five pits to lay the underground OFC cables. However, residents alleged that over 139 holes were dug up throughout the localities, far exceeding the permitted number.

BBMP permitted a total of 11 roads to be dug up for laying OFC cables, covering a length of 1937.11 meters. This involved creating five pits, 20 manholes, and 3 ducts in ward number 27. The residents pointed out that Jio Digital Fibre Limited had exceeded the permitted number and dug over 139 holes.

Adding to their concerns, the residents highlighted that HRBR layout had received a newly laid road just last year. Despite the conditions prohibiting OFC from laying in newly asphalted roads for three years, digging was carried out with BBMP's permission.

Christopher Cruz, a resident of HRBR layout and Executive Committee Member of North East Resident Welfare Association (NERWA) said, "The residents inspected the roads where the digging is in progress and found over 139 holes being dug instead of the 20 holes that were written in the order. We were shocked to see this. Additionally, the newly laid road in HRBR is also dug up within a year's time. We have no idea if the BBMP is aware of the number of places being dug up or if it is happening without their knowledge. But when the orders are given, it is the duty of the BBMP to come and monitor the work. It is not the citizens who have to keep checking on the civic works happening around the locality."

Residents also alleged that during the digging process, a BWSSB underground water line got damaged, causing inconvenience. The BWSSB quickly responded to the residents' grievances and fixed the pipe promptly.

Another issue raised by the residents was the pit being dug close to a BESCOM switch box. "This could result in untoward incidents for the residents or even the workers. The telecom providers give the work to the contractors and leave it to them. Thereafter, it is not even monitored, and the contractors carry out the work haphazardly. There need to be safety protocols followed by the contractors," added Cruz.

The residents have raised the issue with the BBMP officials; however, they haven't responded to the citizens' pleas.

Residents allege that authorities are silent despite raising the issue and residents are keeping a check on the civic works

> **We have no idea if the BBMP is aware of the places being dug up or if it is happening without their knowledge. But when orders are given, they have to monitor**
>
> –Christopher Cruz, Resident

Suburban rail is fast approaching execution phase

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

execution phase, fewer than needed hands on deck might be a cause of concern. Since the majority of the execution work is pending, K-RIDE should immediately fill in the vacancies.

"K-RIDE recently met with public transport experts and rail enthusiasts. The majority of the experts demanded that the tender process of all four corridors be wrapped by the end of this calendar year. If K-RIDE is aiming to meet this deadline, the agency has to be fully staffed, if not over-staffed," said a city-based rail enthusiast.

"K-RIDE is handling one of the most significant projects for Bengaluru. However, the project has suffered significant delay and one of the reasons can be the shortage of human resources. We are approaching the third anniversary of the project being sanctioned and not much has happened on-ground. If K-RIDE wishes to meet any of the deadlines for the completion of the project, it has to be adequately staffed. The agency must gear up to make sure on-ground work happens at war footing," said Rajkumar Dugar, a rail enthusiast and founder of Citizen for Citizen.

Extension plans

Experts also point to K-RIDE's recent proposal to extend the Bengaluru Suburban rail project to nearby cities and towns. They say the already sanctioned corridors must be completed swiftly. In a recent meeting organised by K-RIDE to seek suggestions from the experts, public transport experts and advocates suggested that to ensure all four corridors are somewhat on track, the agency must wrap up all tender-related work including awarding work orders by this calendar year.

"All this cannot be done with a staff shortage. K-RIDE must fill in the vacancies immediately," said Dugar.

"While the initial phases of the project required a lot of coordination with various agencies and lack of human resources might not have marred the project pace, K-RIDE must gather all the manpower it can as it approaches the execution phase. Going forward, things must move at a faster pace. There should be separate teams for every corridor as each has its execution-related challenges," said Sanjeev Dyamannavar, a city-based transport expert.

Experts say while administrative apathy has already cost the project nearly three years, execution of a project at this scale cannot happen with the shortage of staff.

"To some extent, K-RIDE's slow progress so far can be attributed to its failure to leverage hundreds of kilometres of railway track available in and around Bengaluru. The citizens never asked for a parallel system. However, now that they are approaching the execution phase of the project, they should fill in these posts. One cannot have an efficient public transport system with so many vacancies in hand," said Srinivas Alavilli, a city-based advocate.of public transport.

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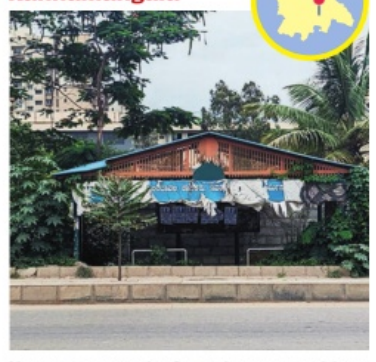

Kannamangala Gate bus stand has been neglected and left unused, resulting in poor maintenance, causing commuters to avoid using it.

Crowded chaos
BTM Layout

The footpaths in BTM 1st stage, especially near the BTM water tank bus stop, are fully occupied, leaving no space for pedestrians to walk.

Doddaballapur-Hoskote road is all set

There is good news on the infrastructure front, as an important corridor Dobbspet-Doddaballapur-Hosakote is nearing completion. Of this, work on the Doddaballapur-Hosakote stretch is completed. Jayakumar, the project director of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), expressed his satisfaction, stating, "We are happy to say that the Doddaballapur-Hoskote highway is now complete. As for the Doddaballapur-Dabaspet work, it is 80% complete, and we are hoping to finish it by year-end."

The Dobbspet-Doddaballapur project, spanning 42 km, is being constructed at a cost of Rs 14, 38.14 crore, while the Doddaballapur-Hoskote road, covering the same distance, comes at a cost of Rs 1,317.74 crore.

Sources revealed that a new toll plaza, an employee-less toll plaza, is also under construction. The toll plazas will be located at Hulikunte between Dobbspet and Doddaballapur, and at Nallur between Devanahalli and Doddaballapur.

Once completed, this highway is expected to significantly improve travel efficiency. To alleviate local traffic congestion, bypasses are being constructed at Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, and Hosakote towns. Additionally, the project will create a connection to the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway. This will allow vehicles coming from Pune and Mumbai to take a deviation at Dobbspet and directly head to Chennai via the expressway, avoiding entry into Bengaluru City and bypassing the highly congested NICE road or the outer ring road. Arachana, the project director of the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway, stated, "We are taking all possible steps to complete the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway at the earliest. Currently, we are working to resolve any issues and move the project forward."

Realtors affirm that this project will benefit the development of the north-west and northern regions. "If we observe the plot-buying trends, many are now investing in plots beyond Nelamangala, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, and Hoskote. With this road now functioning as a mega bypass, people living outside the city can travel from one end to another without having to enter the city itself. As traffic increases, the real estate sector gains prominence since major infrastructure projects always have a significant impact. We hope that this road will not only boost local development but also play a vital role in decongesting Bengaluru," said Nanda Kumar, a realtor. Veeresh S, another realtor said, "This project is a long awaited one. There is a proposal to construct Bengaluru-Mumbai Greenfield expressway which will have its entry point near Doddabelavangala on the Dobbspet-Doddaballapur road and in the future this road will connect Chennai to Delhi expressways as currently, Centre is constructing an expressway connecting Mumbai with Delhi."

-Prakash VL

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Epic journeys waylaid

Whales like birds are the greatest circumnavigators of the world fitted with their own global positioning systems. They have been traversing the shallows and depths since the time ancient seas brewed out of the primordial soup.

In the refreshable memory of recent times, we have been told stories about pods of whales stranded in the shallows and at times beaching themselves to death though human effort has indeed played a role in rescuing them and safely piloting them toward deeper waters.

How curious that pilot whales, pilot mind you, about 100 of them beached themselves and perished off the coast of Australia in the most recent of such instances that is yet to be fully understood by scientists and researchers in its entirety.

Why such natural navigators find themselves in death traps in territory and geography left largely untouched by humans is a mystery. Now you throw the climate fiasco into the mix and what do you get?

Much commentary was written and shared about another such instance of note: orcas or so-called killer whales 'attacking' boats of late, especially targeting the rudders. The behaviour some would like to see as sentient and some just a the whales' fascination with vibrations generated by engines and propellers of gigantic ships and small boats.

The point often missed is perhaps the whole sonic universe of these animals - unlike our own. The ramifications of huge vessels taking over the sonic scape of seas and vast oceans no doubt interfere with the natural sound of the ocean which is yet to be even understood in scale.

Whales are amongst animals that are overly dependent on sonar like bats for instance. Anthropomorphic sounds that have taken over large swathes of land and perhaps water due to cargo ship navigation channels, animals have had to invariably adapt and tweak their sonars.

Now with global trade and industry burgeoning and exploding out of scale in the neoliberal economy, though now seemingly in a slump, the biggest blow has been delivered to cetaceans in the seas and oceans and their traditional navigation mechanism. Perhaps the slightest of anomalies in their unique way of communication may be waylaying and misleading them to places they may not be able to extract themselves out of. This is the most natural explanation for mass stranding of whales.

The intricate pattern of the whale song is much made use of even by certain musicians, and of course researchers who spend a lot of time at sea. On the backdrop of the unfolding climate chaos, and the cacophony of human-generated noise, it perhaps may be demanding an extra effort from those animals who have traditionally navigated the planet with ease. Now when nature on the one side rearranges so rapidly to the changes in oceans currents, alongside the global weather system trying to find a new balance, and nevertheless immense pressure from human-run industry, the fauna in even the remotest of pockets on earth such as the arctic and antarctic suffer.

Fact is we have not spared the poor cetacean from the time of Moby Dick. Such is the longevity of nature that they are the products of the primordial churn, evolved over a billions of years while we humans boast a history hardly of three to four million years or so. Cetaceans, according to human understanding and palaeontology, are mammals that went back to life in water after having flourished on land aeons ago. One of the closest land relatives of the whales are the hippos. Would you believe that?

Latest of fossil discoveries pointed to an animal even bigger than the blue whale that existed once. That means these were really successful species in the evolutionary span. For whatever reasons, the evolutionary trajectory of the cetaceans suggests, compared to an average human individual the scope is much larger - especially if one were to gauge the activity and the space traversed in a lifetime of one single individual. We are dealing tear after tear into the social fabric of such gentle, calm and collected living entities that they are not even able to register their angst or fairly disagree with what we have been doing for centuries, however much you are tempted to say orcas are sentient and want to get back at us ramming into boats and so forth.

The inability of man to fall back into nature's lap has indeed overwhelmed his timeline on this planet. The climate emergency is the definitive instance of the collapse brought about by humans upon themselves. The ramifications may not be as negatively impacting earth if you pull back and look at the evolutionary time spans of species or the whole planet itself. The human footprint isn't even a speck in the span of life manifesting here on earth. But yet we believe it is not so.

Traffic woes costing city ₹19+ cr a year

Experts point out flaws in transport infra; list out suggestions to make city future-ready

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In a report addressed to the deputy chief minister, traffic experts highlighted that Bengaluru loses Rs 19,725 crore annually due to traffic-related hindrances. The report that looks at issues surrounding road planning, flyover, traffic management, and infrastructural deficit by city-based traffic expert MN Sreehari was given to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

Despite having 60 fully functional flyovers in the city, according to a study conducted by Sreeehari and his team, Bengaluru loses Rs 19,725 crore for road users due to delays, congestion, stoppages at signals, interference of slow-moving vehicles by fast-moving ones, fuel loss, occupants' time loss, loss of the vehicle time when converted into money based on salary and others.

He added that though there are more than 60 flyovers available for transportation, most of them are not high on their utility value due to wrong planning. In some cases, the flyovers have narrow road width, do not have slip roads on either side or have them with inadequate width, some have improper locations of entry and exit.

He suggested that flyovers be considered mini pass-overs with the entry and exit points not close to the junction.

As per the report, the job explosion in the IT sector has resulted in an exponential population growth of 14.5 million. This has also led to the vehicle population reaching 1.5 crore. Land area-wise, Bengaluru has expanded from 88 sq km to 985 sq km in 2023. However, the report notes that the existing road length is not proportional to the land expansion. Bengaluru has 11,000 km of road which is not sufficient to meet the growing traffic demand.

Around 60 flyovers in city, but most poorly designed, experts say

Suggestions

The report highlighted that the road length needs to be increased and new road connectivity must be provided to reach destinations through alternate routes. Planning authorities like BBMP, BDA & BMRD, Anekal Town Planning Authorities (APA), Biaapa (Airport Authorities), Elcita (Electronic City Development Authorities) etc should look into meeting the growing demand.

"Bengaluru needs radial roads, ring roads, with specific rings which include ORR, PRR, STRR likewise for every 5 km one circular route also which in turn is connected by radial roads. It is also known that though STRR was planned long back, due to land acquisition issues, there has been an escalation in construction and maintenance cost," said the report.

It's essential to supplement road traffic with metro rail around and as well as linear lines along with one or two circular routes. To alleviate the city of traffic woes, road-side parking needs to be controlled by constructing more multi-level car parkings in various parts of the city. The expert suggested that parking structures can be built under CA sites like parks.

> **"Bengaluru needs radial roads, ring roads, with specific rings which include ORR, PRR, STRR**
>
> –Ashish Verma, IISc

To cater to the road traffic for the next 25 years, experts suggest more underground-based road systems. With the road system completely occupied and facing land acquisition issues, the government needs to explore underground transportation for metros, and government buses with an opening every 1-2 km. It also suggested an encouragement of aerial transportation in the next 10 years. To cater to this goal, private transportation must be discouraged and public mass transportation must be encouraged. Private transport users must be regulated for traffic violations by using artificial intelligence and the provision of a Variable Message System for the driver. Traffic personnel must be increased to take immediate actions following detections via AI cameras.

BBMP wards to be slashed to 225

The State Government, led by the Congress, has made a decision to decrease the number of wards in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to 225. A notification announcing the revised ward limit was issued on Friday. As a result, the BBMP elections will face further delays as new ward boundaries need to be redrawn.

In 2020, the State Government, led by the BJP, had amended the Karnataka Municipal Act, leading to an increase in the BBMP wards from 198 to 243. However, the recent decision by the Congress-led Government will revert the number of wards back to 225.

Victims of financial scams cry for help

A delegation of victims of financial scams representing communities affected by fraudulent activities at Guru Raghavendra Bank, Kanva Group, Siri Vaibhava Coop, Belli Belaku Coop, Vasista Coop, and National Coop Bank, gathered at Kumara Krupa Guest House and met and sought assistance from the politician and economist Subramanian Swamy.

The victims shared their hardships caused by these scams. They appealed for Dr. Swamy's intervention to address their grievances and pursue justice. He assured the delegation of his support in seeking a resolution to their plight.

One of the victims, Muralidhar Lakkanna, said, "We have been fighting for justice for so long. There are many citizens who invested all their savings and were left with nothing."

Bus passengers' plea: Can we pay for tickets online?

Though this will eliminate need to hunt for change, activists caution that technology must not exclude anyone or create new barriers

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As of now, BMTC passengers have a digital option through an application named Tummoc

Commuters of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) have once again urged the corporation to introduce a digital ticketing system, allowing passengers to purchase tickets through online payments. Currently, commuters can only buy the various passes provided by the BMTC digitally through an application named Tummoc. While they were hoping to be able to buy tickets through the recently introduced BMTC application, the feature is still a work in progress. Commuters say that they can buy tickets through UPI payments only in certain Volvo buses.

Shaheen Shasa, a member of the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV) explained that there are multiple ways to implement a digital ticketing system. "The BMTC can either enable buying of tickets online through a designated application or provide a way for passengers to buy tickets on the bus, without having to pay physical cash. "Both of these are loosely referred to as digital ticketing. This also includes options such as smart cards and integrated ticketing across transport modes," she said.

She further added that if implemented, a digital ticketing system would prove to be effective as it will cater to the needs of different types of commuters and segments of society. "What is important when doing this is not to forget that 'one size does not fit all'. The introduction of any kind of technology should take into account that there is diversity among users and the technology does not create barriers or exclusion. So, while introducing the electronic or cashless solutions, they should not become the only option, existing options should continue," she said.

Shasa also said that if application-based solutions are going to be introduced, the process of ticket validation must be closely considered. "Buying passes through the Tummoc app is working very well for most parts, but validating the pass through stretches where internet connectivity is poor does pose challenges for commuters and conductors. The scale and volume of our cities and the number of commuters entering and existing at bus stops, especially during peak hours, is very high. Whatever systems we introduce, we have to factor in how they will work on the scale in the ground conditions we have," she said.

Yathish, one of the founders of "Friends of BMTC", a telegram group of public transport enthusiasts and regular BMTC commuters, said that the introduction of a digital ticketing system will be of much help as it will eliminate the issue of change to be provided by the conductor to passengers, a scenario that often leads to a scuffle between the two.

> **While introducing the electronic or cashless solutions, they should not become the only option**
>
> –Shaheen Shasa, BBPV

Cops suspended for extorting cybercrime accused

Karnataka policemen, who were taken into custody by Kerala police on the charges of extorting money from a cyber fraud accused, were suspended on Friday. The suspension order was issued by Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayanand, who made the decision following a report by the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) regarding the incident.

The suspended policemen were identified as Inspector Shivaprakash, head constables Vijay Kumar, Shivanna and constable Sandesh. All of them were attached to the Cyber Crime, Economic Offences and Narcotics (CEN) police station in Bengaluru. The accused police officers had gone to Kerala in connection with an online fraud case in which one Chandak Shreekanth was duped of Rs 26 lakh. Shreekanth was contacted by one Neetha Sampath on Telegram who lured him by offering a part-time job. The victim was asked to give product reviews and earn money.

Sampath, offering huge returns, got Rs 26 lakh transferred to the account and disappeared after which Chandak registered a police complaint.

The Whitefield CEN police investigated the case, tracked one Issac in Madikeri in Karnataka and found Rs 2 crore transferred to his account.

After tracking the movements of Issac, the police traced Naushad in Kerala. The accused police team travelled to Kallemchery in Kerala and took Naushad into custody and allegedly demanded Rs 3 lakh bribe from him. Naushad had lodged a complaint against the Karnataka police in Kalamassery police station alleging that he was threatened to be fixed in a cryptocurrency case if he failed to give money. Naushad's accusation had put the Karnataka police department into a major embarrassing situation. The Bengaluru Police Commissionerate had sent an ACP-ranked officer to Kerala to investigate the details. **— IANS**

Bengaluru stands united against hate

A candlelight vigil was held at Freedom Park to protest the hate crimes happening in Haryana. A slew of events have been happening over the past few days. A railway guard killed 4 people on the train. Stones were pelted at a Hindu Yatra in Nuh, Mewat. A lot of protestors gathered with posters in front of Freedom Park.

Tousif from Bahutva Karnataka said, "People with vested interests, who are hungry for money and power, want to retain this. The easiest thing they have done is bring division between people. They have some othering like North-South, Nationalist-Liberal, Right-wing Left-wing. In short, they want to divide people. India was not like this. For example the train incident, the constable identified people and killed them based on religion. The biggest

worry is people who were seeing it, and not bothered to take action. People are not bothered about real issues like price rises, hunger, traffic problems, health and others. Still, the majority of the country is unable to have meals, and we are discussing such things, just to win elections."

Lokesh, another protester, drew attention to the recurring pattern of violence that seemed to be engulfing the country cyclically. He said, "Manipur is burning. 22 years ago it was Gujarat, 4 years back Delhi burnt. It's the same formula. We seem to be burning up this country."

Senior lawyer BE Venkatesh who represented Gauri Lankesh, expressed concern over the growing hatred and discrimination towards minority communities. He highlighted how this strategy was more easily applied in certain regions due to demographic factors. Venkatesh said, "Hatred is being spread and bred. The fission that is being created between Hindu Muslim identity, Hindu Christian identity and silencing the voices of minorities is happening across the country. It shows Manipur because of the population divide, they cannot do the same in Nagaland or Mizoram or Meghalaya. It's because of the majority of the Christian population. This kind of tactic is for the 2024 elections. The poorest and most marginalised are getting affected."

Tanvir Ahmed, who's been a part of many protests, criticised the government's failure to protect its citizens.

Ahmed said, "We elected a government by the constitution which has to protect people which is not happening. The government is playing mischief, be it Manipur or Haryana. Even the railway incident is shameful and there should have been a statement from the railway minister. They cannot just get away by saying the person has a mental disorder, explaining the reason. The compensation is minimal and a very paltry amount for the life lost. The government goes to the international arena saying they are upholding democratic values, while the actions are biased."

> **We elected a government by the constitution which has to protect people which is not happening**
>
> – A protester

Manvi, a lawyer participating in the protest, denounced the government's apparent complicity in the ongoing violence.

She said, "We are here to protest from different groups, activists and citizens who are concerned about the complete breakdown of law in the country." **—Abhijeet Kabad**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

CHOMPING GROUND

A night heron having a quick snack at Sarakki Lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sambhav CS**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Life-saver: Railways staff get first-aid training

150 staffers learn all about CPR, use of external defibrillator and more

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Good news for rail passengers. To ensure the safety of its passengers, Southwestern Railway conducted first-aid training for nearly 150 staff from its various departments on Friday. On-ground staff was trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation(CPR), usage of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and other first aid techniques in case of any injuries. According to SWR officials, the training was conducted to equip the staff with life-saving skills in case of an emergency.

"We organised the training session for our frontline workers to ensure passengers' safety. Nearly 200 staff of SWR attended the session on first aid kits, AED usage, and the right way to administer CPR. The idea behind the session was to train our staff so the first few minutes in a medical emergency, considered vital, can be utilised to save lives," said Kusuma Hariprasad, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, South Western Railway (Bengaluru Division).

SWR officials also informed that while five medical kits containing AEDs have already been installed at five SWR stations, eleven more AEDs will soon be procured to be put at other stations. "These kits have been installed at Yeshwanthpur, Sir MV Terminal, Bangarpet, Ramnagara, and Dharmapuri stations. We are procuring 11 more AEDs that will be put up at KR Puram, Whitefield, Hosur, Yelahanka, Mandya, Malur, and Davengere stations.

Techniques like CPR can raise the chances of survival in cardiac arrest cases

We are looking at stations with high footfalls to install these medical kits and AEDs," said Hariprasad.

According to Dr Dinakar D, emergency and safety instructor, such training is important as on-ground officials should be aware of handling medical emergencies.

"We witness many medical emergencies, especially in places with high footfalls. It can range from people fainting to getting cardiac arrests. In such cases a basic knowledge of conducting CPR and handling AEDs can help. People should be made aware that AED is an automated device and requires minimal training. It can be operated by a layperson and increases the chances of survival of those experiencing cardiac arrest. AED should be installed in all public places such as railway stations, bus stands, gyms, schools etc.," said Dr Dinakar.

"We want more people in the public transport department to understand first-aid as many emergencies are taking place at railway stations. The chances of saving lives increases with such training. The first few minutes are vital in case of emergency," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder, Citizen for Citizen, the non-profit that organised the training.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1882 the Sankey Reservoir was constructed at the cost of Rs 5.75 lakh by Richard Hieram Sankey and collected rain water from an area of 2.5 square miles (6.5 km2). It was linked to the Miller's tank and Dharmambudhi tank and was built as a safeguard against water shortages. due to severe famine and the need for clean drinking water in the 1870s. The manmade lake covers an area of 37 acres. Colonel Richard Hieram Sankey joined the East India Company at the age of 16 and was a soldier in the Royal Engineers Army . "Sankey was appointed chief engineer of the Mysore province in 1864 when Lord Bentham Bowring was the chief commissioner," said historian Suresh Moona. The tank, built by him in 1882, was an achievement that joined the rung of Sankey's other iconic buildings.

—With inputs from ET Online

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

How would you describe Bengaluru's weather these days?

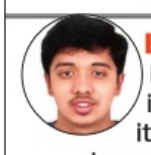
Madappan K, BM Reader
With its delightful mix of warm days and occasional rain, Bengaluru's weather adds a unique charm to the city, making it an attractive destination for all.

Saluja M, BM Reader
In Bengaluru, the weather performs a delightful monsoon melody, harmonising raindrops and sunny interludes. Nature's artistry unveils overcast skies, creating a mesmerising symphony of contrasts.

Chetan Singh, BM Reader
Mesmerising the bite in the air, the mist in the mornings & the chill in the nights. Haven't used the fans at home last few weeks. We never had AC in our house at all. This is the weather we grew up in our early days.

Gopal Shastry, BM Reader
Cloudy and dull weather. Occasional dark clouds, with threatening thunders. Heavy but brief showers spoiling the movements. Drizzles keep the citizens indoors for a hot cup of coffee and steaming snacks. Typical Bangalore weather over decades keeps the ACs off. Certainly an enjoyable season.

Hemanth D Pai, BM Reader
The current weather of Bangalore being cloudy & cool with occasional drizzles makes it quite salubrious, justifying the tag of being an air-conditioned city.



Bhaasita P, BM Reader
Bengaluru's weather these days is quite unpredictable. Some days it's pleasantly cool, with a gentle breeze that makes you want to spend all your time outdoors. But then, there are days when the rain is heavier than ever.

SPEAK TO US

How do you think the problem of vendors occupying footpaths can be resolved without adversely impacting all parties involved?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Imbalance of bad and good bacteria in the gut doesn't just cause digestive issues, it can also impact energy, making you tired

Enjoyment should be at the forefront of everything you make and will lead to consistency in any healthy eating plan

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CHARM OF THE SWARM

How swarming animals can help humans and AI make better decisions

The word swarm often carries negative connotations – think biblical plagues of locusts or high streets full of last-minute shoppers during the Christmas rush.

However, swarming is essential for the survival of many animal collectives. And now research into swarming has the potential to change things for humans too.

Bees swarm to make their search for new colonies more effective. Flocks of starlings use dazzling murmurations to evade and confuse predators. These are just two examples from nature but swarming can be seen in almost every corner of the animal kingdom.

Research from mathematicians, biologists and social scientists is helping us understand swarming and harness its power. It's already being used for crowd control, traffic management and to understand the spread of infectious diseases.

More recently, it's starting to shape how we use data for healthcare, operate drones in military conflicts and has been used to beat near-insurmountable betting odds in sporting events.

A swarm is a system that is greater than the sum of its parts. Just as many neurons form a brain capable of thought, memory and emotion, groups of animals can act in unison to form a "super brain", displaying highly complex behaviour not seen in individual animals.

Artificial life expert Craig Reynolds revolutionised the study of swarming in 1986 with the publication of the Boids model computer simulation. The Boids model breaks down swarming into a simple set of rules.

The Boids (bird-oids) in the simulation, like avatars or characters in a video game, are instructed to move in the same direction as their neighbours, move towards the average position of their neighbours, and avoid collisions with other boids.

Boids simulations are strikingly accurate when compared with real swarms.

The Boids model suggests that swarming does not need leaders to coordinate behaviour – like pedestrians in a town centre rather than a guided museum tour.

The complex behaviour we see in swarms arises from interactions between individuals following the same simple rules in parallel. In the language of physics, this phenomenon is known as emergence.

The hive mind

In 2016, US technology company Unanimous AI used the power of swarm intelligence to win the Kentucky Derby "superfecta" bet, successfully predicting the first, second, third and fourth-placed riders in the famous US horse race.

Industry experts and conventional machine learning algorithms made swathes of incorrect predictions. However, amateur racing enthusiasts recruited by Unanimous AI pooled their knowledge to beat the 541/1 odds.

The volunteers' success lay in the way in which their predictions were generated. Instead of voting on riders and aggregating their choices, the volunteers used Unanimous AI's swarm intelligence platform to participate in a real-time digital tug of war, inspired by swarms of birds and bees.

All volunteers simultaneously pulled a dial towards their respective choices. This allowed people to change their preferences in response to the actions of others (for example, a person may have switched to pulling towards their second choice, B, rather than their first choice, C, if they saw A and B were the clear favourites).

Responding to one another in real time allowed Unanimous AI's volunteers to collectively outperform highly-informed individuals.

What's more, had the most frequent individual picks of the volunteers determined the ordering, only the 2016 winner and bookies' favourite, Nyquist, would have been placed correctly.

Health concerns

Similar swarming technologies are also of increasing interest in the healthcare sector, where talk of an AI revolution is prompting increasing concerns around patient privacy.

As the reliance on data-driven techniques in healthcare increases, so too does the demand for extensive patient datasets. One way to meet these demands is to pool information between institutions and in some cases, countries.

However, the transfer of patient data is often subject to stringent data protection regulations. A solution to this problem is to use only in-house data, though this often comes at the expense of diagnostic accuracy.

An alternative lies in swarming. Researchers believe swarm intelligence can preserve diagnostic accuracy without the need for raw data exchange between institutions.

Preliminary studies have shown decentralising data storage into a network of interacting nodes can give institutions the benefit of shared wisdom. This means there isn't a central hub coordinating the flow of information, and institutions can't access the private patient data of each other.

Centralised machine learning uses data uploaded to a shared hub where machine learning takes place using all available data. In decentralised systems, each institution separately stores its data in its own node.

The machine learning happens locally at each node (using only in-house data), but the results of machine learning are shared between the network, to the benefit of all nodes. This process ensures that raw patient data is not exchanged between institutions, preserving patient privacy.

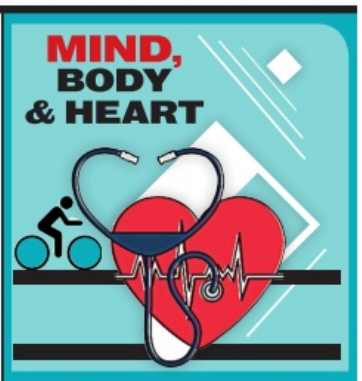
Swarms and warfare

Drone technology is increasingly used in front-line combat, in recent times most notably by Ukrainian forces in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. However, as it stands, conventional drone technology requires one-to-one supervision.

Current defence research aims to facilitate communication between drones, allowing one controller to operate swarms of drones. The development of such technology promises to vastly improve the scalability, reconnaissance and striking capabilities of combat drones by allowing for continuous information relay within groups of drones.

As research delves deeper into swarming, we find a world where collective action creates complexity, adaptability, and efficiency. As technology evolves, the role of swarm intelligence is set to grow, intertwining our world with the fascinating dynamics of swarms.

(By Samuel Johnson, University of Oxford, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Workers at noon

Not-so productive
Office workers tend to feel less productive toward the end of the day and the end of each work week, according to a study.

The lowest point?
The study, published in the journal PLOS ONE, also showed that employees really are less active and more prone to mistakes on afternoons and Fridays, with Friday afternoon representing the lowest point of worker productivity.

The study
A team of researchers at Texas A&M University looked at the computer usage metrics of 789 in-office employees at a large energy company in Texas over a two-year period.
"Most studies of worker productivity use employee self-reports, supervisory evaluations or wearable technology, but these can be subjective and invasive," said Mark Benden, professor and head of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health.
"Instead, we used computer usage metrics -- things like typing speed, typing errors and mouse activity -- to get objective, noninvasive data on computer work patterns," he added.
The team then compared computer usage patterns across different days of the week and times of the day to see what kinds of patterns emerged.

Friday fever
"We found that computer use increased during the week, then dropped significantly on Fridays," said Taehyun Roh, assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.
"People typed more words and had more mouse movement, mouse clicks and scrolls every day from Monday through Thursday, then less of this activity on Friday."
In addition, Roh said, computer use decreased every afternoon, and especially on Friday afternoons. —IANS

Pedestrians just want good times to roll

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in India for an Improved Quality of Life' written by Gayathri Harihara Subramanian, Meghna Verma and Ashish Verma.

The data for the study was collected during the Church Street First initiative that was held from November 7, 2020 to February 28, 2021. Being one of the busiest streets in the city, it is estimated that Rs 1,611.4 was saved every day by the prevention of accidents and pollution.

The study found that the visitors were motivated to come to Church Street primarily to spend quality time with their friends and family, with enjoyment, a sense of fulfilment, and placemaking (the process through which we work together to shape our public spaces) as the pull factors. Dominant push factors are the availability of a wide variety of entertainment activities, and the freedom to do activities on the street.

The study found that such pull factors influenced the satisfaction levels of visitors more than the push factors. Revisits and advocacy of the pedestrianised street project were also due to the pull factors. According to the study, 90 per cent of respondents said that they would recommend Church Street to others.

The study also saw that more passengers were using the metro during the pedestrianised street initiative, thus making the advocacy for pedestrianising streets around metro stations.

One of the researchers Dr Ashish Verma told BM, "The purpose of the study was to ascertain the motivational factors for the Church Street First project. We observed that metro ridership for MG metro station increased more than 100 per cent during the period. Our goal was to start looking at pedestrianising projects from beyond transport policies and traffic conditions and look at quality of life. Emotional and mental well-being is equally important."

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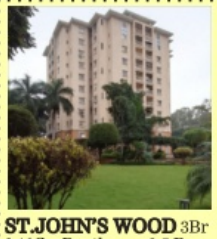

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personal

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I, Reshma Zaman R/o G-4 K K Prestine Apt 19th Cross 22nd Main JP Nagar 5th Phase B'luru-560078 have changed my Minor Son's name From Mohammed Fardeen Zaman to Mohammed Fardeen for all purposes.

I Karthik S/O, Nagaraj Rao R/o # 03, Kothas, Behind Government School, Byappanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560049 have changed my name to Karthik Nagaraj Rao .

I, Geetha Shekara Poojary R/o #2, Munireddy Layout, Panathur Rd, Panathur, B'luru-560103 have changed my Minor Son's name From Shahith Poojary to Shahith Shekara Poojary for all purposes.

I, Prathik Jain Anand Kumar Jain R/o 21, Pipeline, 3rd cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru 560003 have changed my name to Pratik Jain Anand Kumar affidavit Dt.04/08/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Yojit Prabhu Gowda R/o No.19, 1st main, 8th cross, Byraveshwara nagara, Laggere, Bengaluru 560058 have changed my minor son name from JEEVAN P to JEEVAN GOWDA Y affidavit Dt.04/08/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Peddadi Niharika Naidu, R/O - GM Infinite, A114, 1st Floor, E Block, Thirupalya Road, Electronic City Phase 1, Bangalore - 560099, have changed my name to Niharika Naidu.

I, Nayeemunnisa W/o Syed Shabeer Pasha R/o #29 , PVR road 1st Cross , Jolly Mohalla Chickpet B'lore-560053 have changed my name to Nayeeminnisa.

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Supernatural oddballs

NAMO BHOOTHATMA 2
2.5 RATING
- **DIRECTOR** Murali
- **ACTORS** Komal Kumar, Lekha Chandra, Mimicry Gopi, Govinde Gowda, Monica
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 141 minutes

This sequel of Namo Bhoothatma that was released in 2014 is directed by Murali, who is basically a choreographer. But the over-the-top background music and acting of a few actors shows that the director lost control over the actors and music director somewhere along the way. The concept of the movie also is highly unconvincing. Accidents take place and rowdy elements attack people but there is no sign of police throughout the movie. The director has failed to feel the pulse of the audience.

The movie is about Arjun (Komal Kumar) and Garuda (Govinde Gowda) who are experts in making 'bakara' shows (pulling pranks on people) for a TV channel. They happen to fool Rudra, a local rowdy and his brother-in-law at a jinxed building. The rowdy comes to know about it and attacks the TV channel's office. The TV channel's managing director (Ramana Koppa) advises Arjun, Garuda, Amrutha (Lekha Chandra), Nandini (Monica) and her fiancé Shri to lie low at Smiley Guest House situated near Chikkamagaluru. The managing director tells them that the Smiley Guest House is a haunted place.

To avoid Rudra's wrath, Arjun and others come to the guest house. They begin experiencing peculiar situations and their life becomes miserable at the guest house. At this juncture, the audience are told that Amrutha, Nandini, and Shree are the souls of people who died in a road accident. What happens to Arjun and Gardua and who is responsible for the road accident is what Namo Bhoothatma 2 is all about.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Komal Kumar tries his best to make the audience giggle for a while. However, he looks weak in some of the scenes especially where he faces the souls of people who died in the road accident. His dialogue delivery is good and his ability to deliver double entendres is smooth. He also has done a good job along with Lekha Chandra for a dance sequence in a song.

Lekha Chandra looks pretty and has the potential to establish herself as a heroine if she hones her acting skills too. Govinde Gowda has played a different kind of role. Monica and Mimicry Gopi, who plays a fake magician, provide good support.

It is worth a watch if you are bold enough to face people killed in road accidents come back to life.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Chasing the unconventional

EE PATTANAKKE YENAGIDE
2.5 RATING
- **DIRECTOR** Ravi Subba Rao
- **ACTORS** Ravi Subba Rao, Radhika Ram, Seema Krishnaiah, Ritesh, Satish Shetty, and Gopal
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **Duration** 132 minutes

This is a movie that defies conventional categories of films. Director Ravi Subba Rao has taken too much creative liberty to narrate the script, shoot the sequences at a variety of locations, and use co-stars as per his whims and fancies. Most of the dialogues are dirty. It is not clear why the Censor Board did not direct Rao to remove or mute such dialogues.

Going by the bold performance of the female leads, it would seem Radhika Ram and Seema Krishnaiah have been waiting for an opportunity to showcase their acting skills for quite a long time and wanted to act in a movie at any cost.

The story is about Achyuth (Ravi Subba Rao) who becomes a cricket bookie to make easy money. The other hobbies of Achuth are boozing, smoking and women. He borrows money not only from money lenders but also from his sister and girlfriends. He encourages youngsters to indulge in betting. Later he becomes a hurdle for other bookies. What happens to Achyuth is what Ee Pattanakke Yenagide is all about.

Rao, who plays the lead, is convincing as a wayward man, who goes to any extent to lead a luxurious life. His dialogue delivery and body language are good. Between the two heroines, Radhika Ram has acted well in romantic scenes. Gopal, as the hero's friend, has acted well. The other specialty of the movie is that most of the actors do not wear any makeup.

The drawbacks of the movie include its poor cinematography. This is the best one can expect, considering that the film is shot on a phone, an iPhone it may be. Music is lacklustre, script incongruous, and screenplay poor.

This film is only for adults and only if you are prepared to be bombarded with ill-effects of all types of vices.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

PAPS' SURPRISE!

Jahnvi takes startling moment in her stride

Earlier today, Janhvi Kapoor was getting out of her car dressed casually in a baggy grey t-shirt, black shorts and slippers, with her hair tied up in a bun on the top of her head when she was taken aback by paparazzi who called out her name and began photographing her. She instinctively blurted out, "Dara diya aapne (You startled me)", then took barely a second to regain her composure even as the shutterbugs apologised.

She got out of the car, glanced back at the paparazzi with what seemed a charming and forgiving smile and then waved them a quick goodbye. With that, she disappeared into the building. Her short interaction with photographers was captured on video and is already up on Instagram and is going viral.

Janhvi recently debuted in the OTT film, Bawaal with Varun Dhawan where the couple was seen touring Europe in the backdrop of several locations made famous by WW II.

Janhvi is now awaiting the release of her Telugu film, Devara, in which she will be seen acting with Jr NTR. **—ETimes**

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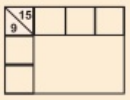
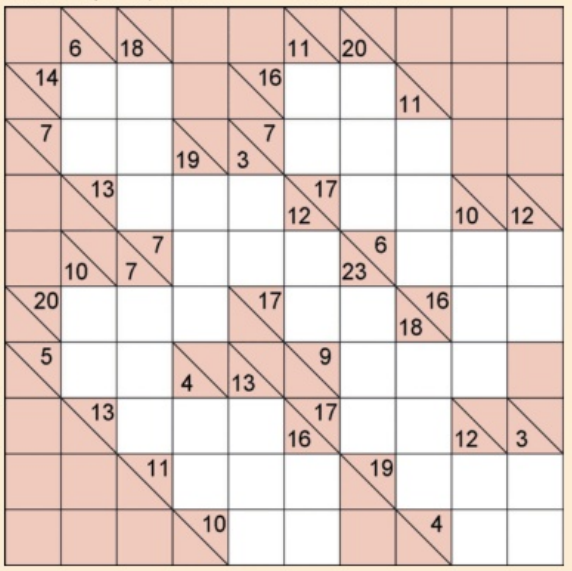
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

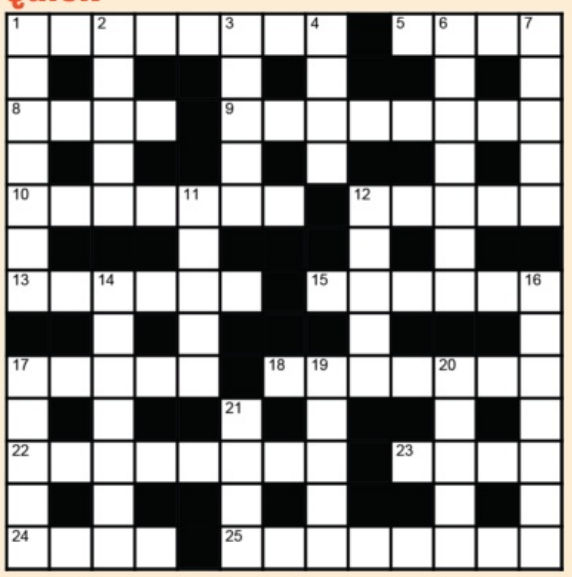


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Petrol for the Americans (8)
5 Very serious (4)
8 Gloomily depressed (4)
9 Accumulating or gathering in large quantities (8)
10 Less heavy (7)
12 Hirsute (5)
13 Prolonged shrill sound or cry (6)
15 India's celebrated athlete (1,1,4)
17 English county (5)
18 Globes? (7)
22 Abdominal, deeply felt (8)
23 Arabian gulf (4)
24 Thin (4)
25 A wild animal (8)

DOWN

1 Eats hurriedly and noisily (7)
2 Wounded by a bee, perhaps (5)
3 Furious (5)
4 Israeli carrier (2,2)
6 Dried grapes (7)
7 Hot and humid (of weather) (5)
11 Mark ____ : Samuel Clemens's pen name? (5)
12 Rabbit cage (5)
14 Bangalore cinema home to India's first 4k screen (7)
16 The state of being away (7)
17 Plunges into water head first (5)
19 Flier or helmsman (5)
20 Cowboy competition (5)
21 General location (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS T

NGFBWBHGULG WB HX HVG LVIFILHGF XD YIU IB LIFJXU WB HX BHGGE.

Linemaro

I need you the way a drowning man needs air

Mindchow

A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read

Joke of the day

A two-year-old is kind of like having a blender, but you don't have a top for it

Loop

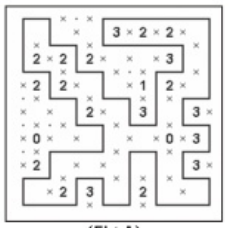
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

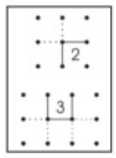
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

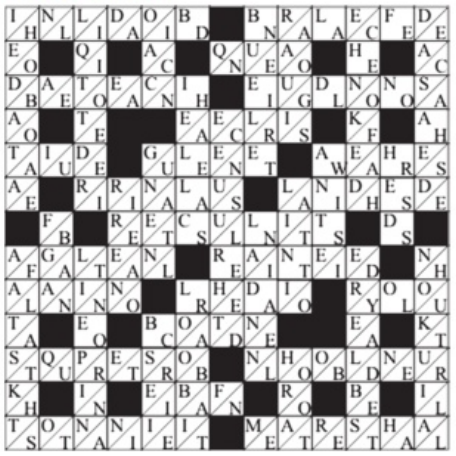


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

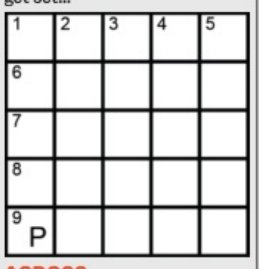
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

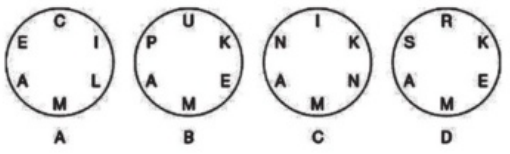
1 SS Bot; 6 Your L;
7 Put an; 8 C Math;
9 Splat

DOWN

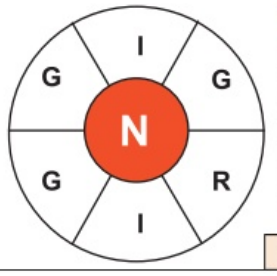
1 Lumps; 2 Talon;
3 A tout; 4 Br CAT;
5 HS Spy

Mensapuzzle

Which circle cannot be made into a six-letter word?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7				5				2
6		1			4			
	3	4		7		5		1
			4	3				
8			6		9			3
				2	5			
5		6		9		1	3	
			5			2		9
1				6				8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 31
2 2 9 9

Medium = 2
3 4 6 7

Hard = 71
4 7 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

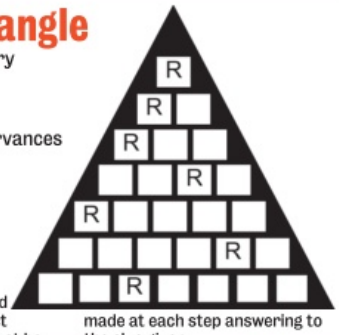
Differences: 1. Fork is longer. 2. Boy's arm is moved. 3. Woman's hair is longer. 4. Car tire is different. 5. Zipper pull is missing from man's jacket. 6. Car window is different.

Riddler

In a syla search I give you a syllable-starter, which is the first syllable in the words you are to find. I will also give you a listing of the other syllables that you must use to figure out the 8 words. Syllable List–al, cute, fec, form, fume, i, ma, mis, mit, nent, se, sion, son, tion, ty Syllable-starter: per How many syllables each word has:
1. (2), 2. (2), 3. (2), 4. (3), 5. (3), 6. (3), 7. (3), 8. (5)

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 In reference to
3 Occupant
4 Beget
5 Customary observances
6 Not ours
7 Very hairy



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

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IT'S CALLED THE BANK VAULT CAFE
WHAT DID YOU ORDER?
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Hart of the city

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LET'S EAT! MY TREAT!
YES, PLEASE!!
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Crankshaft

'READ THE NEWSPAPER ON YOUR PHONE WHEN YOU'RE IN THE BATHROOM,' SHE SAYS...
THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD...
BUT HOW DO I TEAR OUT THE 'ASK THE DOCTOR' COLUMN?
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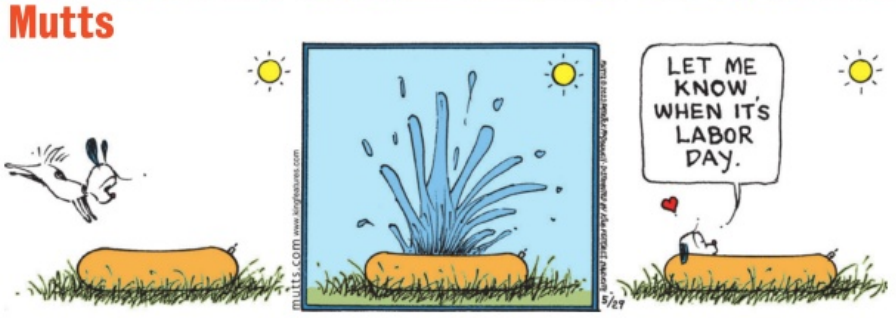
Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the time is favourable. You may be able to control your expenditures, and your savings are likely to increase. You may be busy at home, perhaps bringing some artifacts to decorate your living space. Additionally, you may plan to renovate your office. There is an atmosphere of joy and happiness in the family, and lovebirds may be considering marriage.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, things are under control, and you may feel a surge of new energy that boosts your confidence. You are likely to discover a new way to achieve success at work. Parental business is expected to reach new heights, and chronic illnesses may even be cured. Additionally, you may start planning for an overseas trip.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may experience a sense of dullness that could lead to feeling upset and impatient. There is a likelihood of facing some health-related issues. It is advised to avoid rush driving and adventurous tours. Be vigilant about hidden enemies and opponents, as you might become a victim of conspiracy. It is best to refrain from engaging in arguments.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today may be a good day for your professional life. This is a time when you could be quite busy with your work and job responsibilities. Your passion towards your work may lead to mental tiredness, making it challenging to be punctual for family or social gatherings. However, your spouse will support you in maintaining domestic harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which will bring happiness into your life. Your work may keep you busy, and you are likely to expand your professional network. Elders' blessings will aid you in implementing new plans at work, paving the way for future success. You may also plan to visit close relatives or organise a party with friends.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may experience a sense of dullness, which could make you feel sensitive and emotional. Additionally, there may be some health-related issues to be mindful of. It is advised to avoid rush driving for your safety. Be cautious and watchful of hidden enemies and opponents, as there might be a potential conspiracy against you. For lovebirds, it is advised to maintain patience.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel inclined to analyse yourself and identify your mistakes. Self-analysis will boost your confidence at work. In partnerships, disputed matters are likely to be resolved, leading to improved harmony. Warmth and understanding with your spouse may also increase. Students may make quick decisions regarding their career paths.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, with the blessings of the moon, you may experience happiness all around you. Projects that were once stalled will now get back on track. Your relationship with your spouse will grow stronger, and you may perform exceptionally well at work. For singles, there is a high likelihood of finding a soul mate. Lovebirds may make plans to convert their relationship into a marriage.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, with the help of blessings from elders, you may become confident. Your working efficiency will likely increase. You can start new innovations in your business and work. You may likely have smart gains after a few investments. Your opponents and rivals are now under control. You may help some needy person by giving money, which will enhance your prestige.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, things are mixed for you. You may find yourself busy with kids, and there could be a short trip related to their academics. You will also enjoy some romantic moments with your partner. Couples might receive good news about the birth of a new baby. You may plan an outing with family or friends. Natives in the job may plan for higher education to increase their skill set.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today may be somewhat disappointing, and you might feel impatient, making it challenging to focus on your goals. It is advisable to postpone investments in fixed assets for a while. Prioritise taking care of your parent's health.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel energetic and courageous, leading you to purchase some essential household items for your home or office. Your inner strength will prove helpful in completing your projects before the deadline. Disputes with your siblings are likely to be resolved. There may be some short work-related trips that will also help you expand your network.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
0.5 + √0.25 = √0.25
0.5 + 5 = 0.5
5.5 + 0.5 = 6

BULL'S EYE
grin, RIGGING, ring

STRIKE OUT

I	N	L	A	I	D		B	R	A	C	E	D		
O		I		C		Q	U	A		H		A		
D	E	T	A	C	H		I	G	L	O	O	S		
A		T		E	E	L	S		K		H			
T	I	E		G	E	N	T		W	E	R	E		
E		R	I	A	L	S		A	I	D	E	D		
B	R	E	S	U	L	T	S		D					
F	A	T	A	L		R	A	N	E		N			
L	A	I	N		R	E	D	O		Y	O	U		
A		E		B	A	D	E		E		T			
S	U	P	E	R	B		N	O	B	L	E	R		
K		I		I	A	F		R		E		I		
S	O	N	O	N	E	T		M	A	R	T	H	A	

FAST FIVE

S	T	O	B	S
U		U		R
M	A	T	C	H
U		N		P
P	L	A	T	S

QUOTE UNCODE
Persistence is to the character of man as carbon is to steel.

QUICK

S	L	I	M		A	N	T	E	L	O	P	E		
E		H			E		O		E			C		
V	I	S	C	E	R	A	L		A	D	E	N		
I		A		A		I		O		E				
D	E	V	O	N		S	P	H	E	R	E	S		
		I		R				C				B		
S	Q	U	E	A	L		P	T	U	S	H	A		
		W		U		N								
L	I	G	H	T	E	R		H	A	I	R	Y		
B		N		T		L		S		G				
B	L	U	E		A	M	A	S	S	I	N	G		
O		T		R		L		A		U				
G	A	S	O	L	I	N	E		G	R	I	M		

MENSA PUZZLE
C. The others are: malice, makeup, makers

RIDDLER
Perfume (per fume), Permit (per mit), Perform (per form), Permission (per mission), Permanent (per ma nent), Persecute (per se cute), Perfection (per fection), Personality (per son al i ty)

SUDOKU

7	9	8	1	5	3	6	4	2
6	5	1	2	8	4	3	9	7
2	3	4	9	7	6	5	8	1
9	6	2	4	3	7	8	1	5
8	7	5	6	1	9	4	2	3
4	1	3	8	2	5	9	7	6
5	2	6	7	9	8	1	3	4
3	8	7	5	4	1	2	6	9
1	4	9	3	6	2	7	5	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Res, Sire, Rites, Theirs, Hirsute.

LOOP
Medium
9 + 2 × 2 + 9 = 31
4 + 7 − 6 − 3 = 2
Easy
4 + 4 × 8 + 7 = 71

GO FIGURE

KAKURO

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